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REPORT

OF

THE WEEKLY COMMITTEE,

TO THE

QUARTERLY MEETING OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

TOWN'S HOSPITAL,

HELD ON 15TH MAY, 1832.

4TH MAY, 1832.

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REPORT, &c.

THE WEEKLY COMMITTEE of DIRECTORS of the TOWN'S HOSPITAL, consider it their duty to REPORT to the QUARTERLY MEETING of DIRECTORS, to be held on 15th May next, as follows:—

At a pro re nata Meeting, held on the 28th day of February last, within Hutcheson's Hospital, the Directors were informed that Spasmodic Cholera had appeared with great virulence among the inmates of the Hospital, and the progress of the disease, as well as the proceedings of the Committee up to that date, were reported to the Directors.* At that date, *twenty-one* persons had been seized with sudden illness—of whom *one* was reported dead of Apoplexy, *one* dead of Ileus, and *seven* dead of Cholera. *Four* were reported recovered, and *eight* remained under treatment for Cholera—of whom *five* died subsequently, and *three* recovered. The disease continued to prevail until the 9th March, when its ravages were stayed, only *two* cases of Cholera having occured after that date; *one* on the 18th, and another on the 19th March, after which no cases of actual Cholera appeared within the Hospital, although the tendency to disease of the bowels, continued for some weeks to require a rigid surveillance of the inmates; and frequent visitations daily by Medical attendants were found necessary, to check the incipient symptons. After the 21 cases formerly reported, 46 additional cases occurred, making a total of 67 within the Hospital, including two hired nurses.

Of whom there died of Cholera, - - -	42		
of Apoplexy, - - -	1		
of Ileus, - - - -	1		
of old age, and debility after Cholera, - - - -	1		
of inflamation of the Brain after Cholera, - - -	1		
	46		
And there recovered, - - - -	21	67	

* See Appendix.

attendants on cases of Cholera, within the Hospital, had seen this body, and subsequently observed certain appearances on the bodies of persons dead of Cholera, resembling those on the corpse of Mary Ann Watson, which, when coupled with the description given by one of the Glasgow Newspapers on the 15th February, of the symptons she exhibited before death, does certainly encrease the suspicions that Cholera was her disease.

The Committee next proceeded to investigate the state of the various departments of the Hospital, as it existed on the 22d February, with regard to the number of beds and occupants of beds, *at that date*, and their respective numbers *now*, and the following is the result of a most careful investigation:—

	B.	P.	Total. B.	Total. P.		B.	P.	Total. B.	Total. P.
In the six Westmost cells there were, on the 22d February,	8	8			and there are now	5	5		
In the mid range of cells, 12 occupied	20	28			.....	3	3		
In the upper cells, 11 in number,	17	23	45	59	.....	17	15	25	23
The Westmost cells have no fire-places The mid cells have all fire-places, excepting four, but they are heated by a flue, entering cell No. 8. There are five low cells in the East wing, never occupied by inmates, but in cases of great emergency; their floor is lower than the other cells; they were, and are, filled with potatoes and lumber.									
The West wing, back building, up one stair,	28	31			.....	28	29		
The centre, do. do.	12	15			.....	12	13		
The West wing, do. two stairs	9	10			.....	9	8		
The Centre, do. do.	18	20			.....	18	19		
The East Wing, do. do.	15	16			.....	15	16		
The Centre garrets, do.	10	10			.....	8	8		
The Eastmost garrets, do.	9	9	101	111	.....	9	14	99	107
Total in back building	—	—	146	170	.....	—	—	124	130
The West building, or new house, low ward,	14	1			.....	8	9		
The do. upper ward,	10	14	24	31	.....	—	—	8	9
East small house, formerly the wright's shop,	—	—			.....	4	4	4	4
Front house, upper floor,	42	63			.....	49	67		
Do second floor down,	57	87			.....	58	72		
Do one stair up,	27	44			.....	34	47		
Do. large hall,	—	—			Total in	14	10		
Do. oakum room,	—	—	126	194	front house,	6	7	161	203
Males, 122 } 395 Females, 273 }			296	395	Males, 102 } 346 Females, 244 }			297	346

It thus appears that there were, on the 22d February, 296 beds, occupied by 395 persons, (or one third of the beds contained two persons in each,) *one hundred and twenty-two* were *males*, and *two hundred and seventy-three females ;* and that there are now 297 beds, occupied by 346 persons; of whom, *one hundred and two* are *males*, and *two hundred and forty-four females*. It does not seem that there was, in any one department, more than the usual healthy compliment of persons, with the exception of cells No. 5 and 6, in the middle range of low cells, in one of which there were *three* beds, containing *six* persons *during the night;* and in the other, *three* beds, containing *five* persons. And although the first cases of Cholera did occur in these two cells, yet, on the same day, other *two* cases occurred in the upper floor or attics of the centre front building, in one of the largest wards of the Hospital.

The whole cells occupied by inmates on the ground floor, were *twenty* in number, in *eleven* of them eighteen cases of Cholera occured, of which *nine* only died, and, in the other nine cells, no cases occurred; but, in the large ward of the upper floor of the front building, already referred to, *seven* took Cholera, *six* died, and only *one* recovered. In the upper cells, *eleven* in number, there were *nine* cases and *six* deaths. In the upper apartments of the back building, other than the cells, there were *eleven* cases, and *eight* deaths. In the low ward of the new house, *four* cases, and *two* deaths; in the upper ward of that house, *two* cases, and *one* death. In the upper floor of the front house, *ten* cases, and *nine* deaths; in the *second* floor of that house, *nine* cases, and *eight* deaths; and the *first* floor up of the same house, *two* cases, and *one* death. So that, in the front building, only *three* recovered out of twenty-one; whereas, of the occupants of low cells, nine recovered out of *eighteen*.

The Board of Health having co-operated with the Commissioners of Police, in extensive measures for the suppression of begging, and preventing the ingress of stranger vagrants and mendicants, the Committee, appointed by the last Quarterly Meeting, did not require to act in the capacity comtemplated by the Directors. But, in the other business remitted to them, (the consideration of what gratuity ought to be awarded to the respective District Surgeons, for their extraordinary labours or personal sufferings, consequent on their attendance on cases of Typhus Fever among the poor, during the six months prior to the date of that remit,) the Committee, on the 2d April, proceeded, and after a minute investigation, and due consideration of the subject, it was unanimously resolved, that the sum of ten pounds, each, should be awarded as gratuities to Mr. Watt, Mr. Panton, Mr. Easton, Mr. M'Tear, Mr. Dick, Mr. Connel, Mr. Miller, and Mr Stirling, the four first named gentlemen having suffered from fever, and the other four having also discharged very laborious duties, with fidelity and efficiency. The Districts, No. 4, 5, 6, and 12, under the charge of Mr. Robertson, Dr. Bryce, Mr. Paterson, and Mr Johnston, not having occasioned

any personal sufferings, or the same degree of extra labour as attended the duties of the other eight districts, it was agreed, that only *five pounds* should be awarded to each of their Surgeons. The said gratuities not to be understood as conferring any *right* to similar grants on any future occasion.

Under the powers conferred on the Committee, by the *pro re nata* Meeting of the 22d December last, Mr. Renfrew having been appointed temporary assistant to Mr. Watt, during his illness and absence, and Mr. Anderson having been called to the like duties, during the illness of Mr. Panton, it was agreed to award *three guineas* to each of those two gentlemen for their services while employed in their respective districts.

The Medical assistants employed in the Hospital during the prevalence of Cholera, have been paid; but the Committee have thought it most proper to refer to the consideration of the *whole Directors*, what amount should be awarded to Dr Auchencloss, for his arduous duties, at that important period.

After the disease was known to exist within the Hospital, it became necessary for the Weekly Committee to remove their sittings to the Tron Church Session-house—as well to avoid the locality of disease, as to prevent the poor, from infected districts, coming in contact with any of the Hospital inmates. And the large hall, (which the Committee had selected as their place of Meeting, the week before Cholera had appeared within the Hospital,) having become the dormitory of inmates removed from the West Building, or idiot wards, when that building was appropriated to the purposes of a Cholera Hospital, their sittings have hitherto been continued in the Session-house, but as the occupants of the hall are to be forthwith removed to other parts of the Hospital, the Committee purpose to resume sitting at the at the Hospital, on Friday next, the 11th May, current.

By order of the Committee,

DAVID CRAWFORD, Preceptor.

Glasgow, 4th May, 1832.

APPENDIX.

Extract from the MINUTES of the weekly Committee 25th February, 1832. *Submitted to the pro re nata meeting of Directors on 28th February*, 1832.

WITHIN the Tron Church Session House on Saturday, the 25 February, 1832. Convened the weekly Committee of the Town's Hospital, for the purpose of enquiring into every circumstance connected with the appearance of Cholera within the Hospital. Present Messrs Thomas Stevenson, Alexander Pollock, Robert Stewart, John Ronald, James Bowman, William Barr, Joseph Brown, George Munro, and William Thomson; together with Mr Hill Superintendent, and Dr Auchencloss surgeon of the Hospital.

In consequence of the extent to which Typhus Fever had spread within the City and suburbs, the Committee, on the 2d day of December last, came

to a Resolution that the permission granted to the Hospital Inmates to go out of the Hospital on Sundays and Tuesdays, should be suspended so long as the state of disease within the City and Suburbs might render that restriction necessary, visitors from without (except in cases not involving danger to the inmates) were also for the same time to be excluded. These restrictions have not hitherto been relaxed, and the hospital has still remained free from Typhus fever. But on Wednesday, 22d inst. it was acertained that a malignant disease, declared to be Cholera, had suddenly appeared among the fatuous and insane portion of the inmates, and up to the present hour twenty-one cases of sudden illness have occured.

In their endeavours to discover or account for the origin of this afflictive visitation, the Committee have not been able to fix on any particular circumstance as affording direct evidence that it has been communicated by contagion or infection ; neither have they any grounds for believing, that its appearance was spontaneous or indigenous, or that it has been generated by any malarious influence within the Hospital ; but they have ascertained the following facts.

I. That the restriction imposed on the egress of inmates could not be extended to the persons usually employed in the out-door messages of the Hospital, who are daily and frequently required to be sent out on the business of the House, there being no *hired* male servants in the pay of the Hospital excepting the Keeper of the insane, and the Tailor of the House.

2. That John Brown a robust idiot, and Robert M'Nair an aged fatuous person, were frequently employed with wheel-barrows to carry out the sand swept from the Hospital floors to places of deposit outside the premises, and to bring in *sand stones*, for the use of the Hospital, and that on such errands they have been known to wander from their employment, gratifying curiosity ; that the said John Brown, (setting aside the Ileus case of Allan Macdonald) was the first person affected with Cholera, on the morning of Wednesday 22d, inst ; and it is ascertained that he had been out of the Hospital, on his usual errand, on Friday, 10th current, and that Robert M'Nair, who became ill on the morning of the 22d, had been three times out for sand stones on Saturday, 18th inst, though it is not remembered that he wasted any time unnecessarily on that occassion. On Monday following Brown and M'Nair were for sometime employed together, carrying coals on a hand barrow to the upper apartments of the front building, and as they were usually associates in labour they may have been more frequently together. Allan Macdonald (the case of Ileus) and John Campbell, under treatment for Cholera, with two other persons not affected, slept in the same apartment with John Brown.

3. That the illness of William Scott, and William Henderson, both occupying an apartment adjoining to that of Brown, was nearly, if not altogether, simultaneous with that of Brown.

4. That *seventeen* persons, insane, infirm, or vagrants, or of worthless character, have been received into the Hospital, since 5th January last, under orders from sitting Magistrates at the police office. *Four* of them beggars, admitted on 15th, and *five* vagrant destitute children, (from whence collected unknown) so late as Tuesday last 25th inst, and although such persons were washed and cleaned, on their admission, and placed for a time in rooms apart from other inmates ; yet they were not received under any such authority, as would warrant close confinement, and had even such authority existed the accommodation remaining in an establishment, previously overstocked with such characters, was not sufficient for the purposes of proper seclusion and quarantine ; consequently they could not be prevented from holding intercourse with other inmates during the day,

5. That the friends of inmates frequently called and held communication with their relatives, at the Hospital door.

6. That persons from infected Houses, or districts, on the plea of business frequently find their way into the counting house, having previously passed through a portion of the Hospital and up a common stair.*

*This has been obviated by running up an outside stair direct to the Counting House.

7. That until Friday, 17th inst. all applicants for relief from the weekly committee were assembled in the lobbies, and passages of the Hospital, until their Petitions could be answered. A situation in which some individuals were obliged to remain for three, four, or five hours, many of such applicants were diseased or from infected houses; and it is known, that at least one female was before the committee on the 17th who died of Cholera (in the Albion street Hospital) on the 19th, inst.

EXTRACT from the MINUTE of the Quarterly Meeting of the Directors of the Town's Hospital, held on the 15*th May*, 1832.

The Minutes of the last Quarterly and pro re nata Meetings were read, also a Report presented by the Weekly Committee.

On the motion of the Lord Dean of Guild, it was unanimously resolved—"That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Committee for the zealous, and able manner, in which they have performed their important duties, and that the Report be printed, and circulated among the Directors."

It was moved by the Preceptor; seconded by Alexander Pollock, Esq., and unanimously agreed to—"That this Meeting express their high sense of obligation to William Thomson, Esq., for the very great labour, the talent, and industry, which he has evinced in framing this Report.